Sterne Kessler Goldstein Fox

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

May 16, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 1632

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/986,750; Filed: November 9, 2001
For: **Method for Removing a Universal Linker from an Oligonucleotide**
Inventors: Pires *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.5080001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. An original executed Power of Attorney From Assignee;

2. An original executed Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) along with a copy of the Assignment; and

3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Frank R. Cottingham

Frank R. Cottingham
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SKGF_DC1:14315.1